

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 10, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 10, 2004. Claims 39-49 have been added. Claims 11-14 and 17-38 are allowed. Claims 2-9 and 15-16 have been cancelled without prejudice. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by *Ryll* (U.S. Patent Number 6,302,205). The Examiner states that *Ryll* discloses a drillable cement shoe for use in a wellbore. The Examiner states that a tubular housing (designated by numbers 28, 14, 20) is disposed on the end of the tubular string (designated by number 14). The Examiner states that the housing 20 has an enlarged inner diameter with respect to the housings 28 and 14 which is at the lowermost end of the housing. The Examiner states that a valve (designated by number 22) and cement (designated by number 24) comprise the drillable cement shoe portion in communication with the tubular string. Regarding claim 10, the Examiner states that valves (designated by numbers 22 and 30) are provided.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. *Ryll* discloses adding pigment to a float shoe to locate a drill bit when drilling out cementing equipment from a wellbore. Pigment-colored cement 24 is shown within a body 20 of the float shoe 16 of Figures 1-2. The Examiner designates the body 20 as the enlarged inner diameter portion recited in claims 1 and 10. *Ryll* merely discloses using the pigment-colored cement within the float shoe to indicate the position of the drill bit 42 within the tubular string during drilling, and does not teach, show, or suggest that the portion of the pigment-colored cement within the body which is outside the reach of the drill bit is removed upon drilling through the float shoe. Accordingly, *Ryll* does not teach, show or suggest a cement shoe assembly for use in a wellbore comprising a tubular housing for disposal at an end of a tubular string, the housing having an enlarged inner diameter portion at the lowermost end of the housing and a drillable material disposed in the enlarged inner diameter portion; and a drillable cement shoe portion disposed in the housing, the cement shoe portion in selective fluid communication with the tubular string, wherein the drillable

material is predisposed to substantially fall away from the housing when drilled, as recited in claim 1 and its dependent claim 10. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejections to claims 1 and 10 and allowance of the claims.

New claim 43 depends from claim 1. For at least the same reasons as stated above regarding claims 1 and 10, *Ryll* does not teach, show, or suggest a cement shoe assembly for use in a wellbore comprising a tubular housing for disposal at an end of a tubular string, the housing having an enlarged inner diameter portion at the lowermost end of the housing and a drillable material disposed in the enlarged inner diameter portion; and a drillable cement shoe portion disposed in the housing, the cement shoe portion in selective fluid communication with the tubular string, wherein the drillable material outside a reach of a cutting tool is predisposed to fall away from the housing upon passing the cutting tool through the housing, as recited in claim 43. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claim 43.

For at least the same reasons as stated above regarding claims 1 and 10, *Ryll* does not teach, show, or suggest a cement shoe assembly for use in a wellbore comprising a tubular housing for disposal at an end of a tubular string, the housing having an enlarged inner diameter portion at the lowermost end of the housing, a drillable cement shoe portion disposed in the housing, the cement shoe portion in selective fluid communication with the tubular string, and a drillable material adjacent the enlarged inner diameter portion of the housing constructed and arranged to become dislodged from the housing when the shoe is drilled with a cutting tool having an outer diameter smaller than the enlarged inner diameter portion of the housing, as recited in new claim 42. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claim 42.

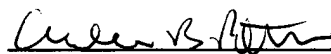
Regarding new claims 44-49, *Ryll* shows in Figures 1 and 2 an enlarged inner diameter at the threaded connection between the tubular string 14 and the body of the float shoe 20. The float shoe body 20 is a tubular section with a threaded end for connection to a threaded end of the tubular string 14, as shown in Figures 1 and 2. The float shoe body 20 itself does not include an enlarged inner diameter portion therein. Therefore, *Ryll* does not teach, show, or suggest a cement shoe assembly for use in a wellbore comprising a tubular section for disposal at an end of a tubular string, the lowermost end of the tubular section having an enlarged inner diameter portion; and a

drillable cement shoe portion disposed in the tubular section, the cement shoe portion in selective fluid communication with the tubular string, as recited in new claims 44-49. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of new claims 44-49.

Claims 2, 4, and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten claims 2, 4, and 5 as new claims 39-41; therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 39-41.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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